

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 10. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:  
a spine member removably ~~removable~~ engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;  
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;  
equipment mounting hardware;  
said equipment mounting hardware includes a platform removably mounted onto said spine member;

~~a flexible cover removably mountable on said platform for protecting the equipment from damage or theft;~~ and

attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.

Claim 11. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said ~~equipment mounting hardware further includes cover~~ is comprised of:

~~an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said platform~~ a durable material.

Claim 12. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said ~~equipment mounting hardware further includes cover~~ is comprised of:

an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

Claim 13. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes:

elongated members having "C" shaped channels;

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said "C" shaped channels; and

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a mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware formed therein mountable onto said spine member.

14. (cancelled)

15. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:

a spine member ~~removably~~ removable engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;

a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

equipment mounting hardware;

said equipment mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel mountable onto said spine member; and

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels; and

at least one mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware.

~~attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.~~

16. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

17. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member.

18. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and

a flexible cover mountable onto said platform.

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19. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and  
an enclosed box-mountable onto said platform.

20. (canceled)

21. (new) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:  
mounting hardware for mounting equipment to said carrier;  
said mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel;

said C shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels;

at least one mounting mechanism for attaching said mounting hardware to said C shaped channels; and

said at least one mounting mechanism containing an indent for engaging with said inverted rim.

22. (new) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover includes:  
a flexible cover.

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